

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7448

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED CASE: INVESTIGATING COMMISSION IS CONTINUING

1. WITHOUT CLEAR PUBLIC DEFINITION OF WHAT ITS POWERS ARE OR ITS POLICIES WILL BE, THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION HAS TAKEN COMPROMISE, PRAGMATIC STEP OF SIMPLY CONTINUING ITS INVESTIGATION WITHOUT BOGGING DOWN IN A DEBATE OVER ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS. THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS THAT SOME IN DC WISHED TO ADJOURN INVESTIGATION WHICH WOULD HAVE BROUGHT PROCEEDINGS TO STANDSTILL DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. COMPROMISE WAS REPUTEDLY REACHED ON CONDITION THAT COMMITTEE NOT ISSUE DEFINITE JUDGEMENTS UNTIL NEW PARLIAMENT IS SWORN IN.

2. ANOTHER GENERAL FACT WORTH NOTING IS THAT THE COMMITTEE AND THE PRESS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT

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WHILE THE USG-PROVIDED DOCUMENTS CAN SUPPLY LEADS,

THEY WILL NOT NECESSARILY PROVIDE "ANSWERS" OR "DEFINITIVE PROOF". THEREFORE THE COMMITTEE IS CONCERNING ON ITALIAN WITNESSES NAMED IN US DOCUMENTS (E.G. ANTONIO LEFEBVRE) AND ON NAMES UNCOVERED IN METICULOUS SEARCH OF FINANCIAL RECORDS OF FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS SO NAMED. ONE HAS THE FEELING THAT THEY HAVE NOW BEGUN THE TIME-CONSUMING BUT POTENTIALLY "REWARDING" PROCESS OF "UNPEELING THE ONION".

3. BEST EXAMPLE OF THIS IS RECENTLY ARRESTED FIGURE WHO RECEIVED \$200,000 FROM LEFEBVRE (RENATO CACCIAPUOTI) IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A "LAUNDERING OPERATION." CACCIAPUOTI IN TURN NAMED A MYSTERIOUS JAMAICAN FEMALE (MAIL BIULA) WHOM HE CLAIMS WAS SENT BY LOCKHEED IN 1968 TO VERIFY THAT ILLEGAL PAYMENTS WERE IN FACT RECEIVED BY DESIRED PARTIES. INCREDIBLY SHE IS ALSO RUMORED TO HAVE WORKED FOR ANTONIO LEFEBVRE FOR THREE YEARS. THE COMMITTEE IS REPORTEDLY FOLLOWING UP ON THIS SEEMINGLY FAR-FETCHED LEAD.

4. COMMITTEE ALSO RE-INTERROGATED MR. LEFEBVRE FOR OVER FIVE HOURS AND HE WON GRUDGING ADMIRATION FOR HIS ELUSIVE GUILF. NONETHELESS HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE MENTIONED CONTACTS WITH LEONE IN 1968 RE LOCKHEED'S P-3 PROPOSAL. FYI: THE ITALIAN MILITARY EVENTUALLY CHOSE A FRENCH AIRCRAFT INSTEAD OF THE P-3. END FYI. HE ALSO REPUTEDLY TESTIFIED THAT FORMER DC SENATOR AND PRESENTLY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA, GIROLAMO MESSERI, HAD RECOMMENDED THE LEFEBVRE'S LEGAL FIRM TO LOCKHEED WHEN LOCKHEED WAS SEEKING A PERMANENT ROME AGEN. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE (ANSA) REPORT LEFEBVRE IS SAID TO HAVE ADDED THAT MESSERI MADE THIS RECOMMENDATION TO LOCKHEED "THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ROME". COMMENT: WHILE RADIO AND TV USED THIS ITEM, NONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE YET TO MENTION THIS ALLEGED EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR AND OUR RECORDS DO NOT CONFIRM IT.

5. COMMENT. WHILE NONE OF THESE RUMORED CONNECTIONS NECESSARILY INDICATE WRONGDOING ON ANY ONE'S PART, THEY DO REAFFIRM THE HISTORY OF CONTACTS BETWEEN LEONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND LEFEBVRE. WHAT MUST BE REALIZED, HOWEVER, IS THAT THESE "LEADS" FROM THE COMMITTEE ARE LEAKS OF INFORMATION THEY HAVE OBTAINED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS. THERE WILL BE MORE OF THIS AND IT WILL KEEP LOCKHEED IN THE NEWS.VOLPE

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